

DULL DAY FOR PEARY'S MEN.

NO PAY AND NEW YORK RIGHT WITHIN REACH.

Sailors of the Roosevelt Groan When They Think of Broadway and the Howery—Had a Better Time Last Year Playing Football on the Ice Off Greenland.

The crew of Commander Peary's ship Roosevelt had so quiet a Christmas yesterday that some of the men were a little put out about it. "This ain't much like last Christmas, up north," said Eats "Em Alive" Charles Henry Clark yesterday afternoon. "I'd rather be at 82° 27', with ice all around, than to be in sight of Broadway with no money to spend."

The crew said they had not been paid with the exception of slight advances made when the ship touched at Sydney, Cape Breton. It is understood that the Roosevelt will be towed to drydock at Hoboken to-day and the crew paid and disbanded. But that will be too late for Christmas.

The Roosevelt is anchored in the North River off Forty-second street, where she arrived on Monday night. A launch which makes a business of carrying sight-seers to ships anchored in the vicinity made four or five trips yesterday to the Roosevelt, but there was a cold and blowing wind which kept the launch away from the ship. The launch was at Forty-fourth street. Few—perhaps fifteen—made the trip. This meant few visitors for the lonely sailorman.

A good part of the crew had counted on getting off to New York or to their homes for Christmas dinner. Then they learned that they would not be paid off before Wednesday. Four lucky ones, including Able Seaman George Clark No. 1 and Able Seaman George Clark No. 2 (no relation) and Bo's Jack Murphy had money left over from their Sydney landing and were brought over to Manhattan in the afternoon. The remaining twelve men spent the day in reading, sleeping and playing solitaire.

Fragments of salt corned beef and duff littered the table in the fore-cabin. Duff is a sort of plain pudding made with flour, baking powder and water.

"We've what's left of our Christmas dinner," said Fireman Clark. "Don't look much like New York, does it? You ought to have seen us a year ago to-night."

Able Seaman George Whalen, Dick Webster and Sandy Wey rolled over in their bunks so that they could listen without getting up. These bunks are shelf frames of iron pipe filled in with duff and meat.

"We was up," said Eats "Em Alive" continued, "stuck in the ice off Enderby Beach, Greenland. We spent the day playing solitaire and football on the ice. A great game of football on the ice. All hands grunted amiably at the recollection."

Foley from Newfoundland and the boy's chum, who had been with him in the Arctic ice and tumbled around until they were black and blue. The result? Oh, I guess it was about even."

"Eats 'Em Alive" came from one of the bunks. "There was so much zero up there that the score was 0-0."

After we had got tired of that, Charlie Peary, the forward, piped all hands to grub-sit o'clock, your time, that was."

"We were split up in three camps, same as usual—cabin, mess room and fore-cabin. Though we ate the same grub. There was no salt-corned beef, that—deer meat, hare—"

"In fact everything," interpolated the bunk over in the further corner. "The fireman went on unperturbed. 'You can put down most anything but dog-eatin' grub come later, and didn't come to the ship to stay. The ship at all. That was confined to the sledging party.'

"We had sixty Esquimaux on board, twenty families. After dinner we started a race here in the fore-cabin. We cleared the space off of the mainmast and called in the Esquimaux women. One of the crew had an accordion and we had the phonograph. It was a great time."

The fore-cabin is about 20 by 14 feet over all. The space aft of the mainmast is a little less than half that area.

"But it wasn't many minutes before rain, hail, sleet, the ice outside began raising hell. I suppose the tide had lifted it and caused it to break up some. We all went to the deck and worked most of the rest of the night."

"What could you do in a case of that kind?" Eats "Em Alive" was asked. "I can stand the cold, but I can't stand the rain. That was a Christmas as was a Christmas, but this one is a farce. 'Nuthin' but an' no money to do it with.'"

In the mess room toward Peary played solitaire, watched by a couple of other members of the ship's company and by Teddy the cat. The Roosevelt carried a lot of cats, but Peary's cats, the cats of the crew, were born in the winter. One of the old cats died from the cold and the other was stolen at Vineyard Haven on the way to New York. A specially hired hell hound has been invoked to take care of the ship.

It required some care to keep the cats from the long voyage and they were brought on board yesterday. The cats were some fifteen of the latter. A few were lying on the coal in the open hold yesterday afternoon, apparently enjoying the cold wind that came through the lifted hatch.

As the launch cleared away for the return to shore after its last trip yesterday the crew cheered the rail to say good-bye. "When you want to get out a plane, a barometer if the lighter comes back," sang out one voice. "I'm all out. This is a hell of a Christmas," the voice went on. "New York right over there an' me beginn' terbarometer."

FOR THE LITTLE MOTHERS.

Frank Tilford the Host at the Annual Christmas Dinner.

The Murray Hill Lyceum was the common point to which were directed yesterday noon four long lines of "Little Mothers," one from each of the "Home-Making Circles" of the Little Mothers' Aid Association. Many of the Little Mothers brought their charges along.

When Frank Tilford, who gives the dinner to the Little Mothers every Christmas, put in an appearance every one of the 750 little girls present passed from feasting and singing to the Christmas dinner. Then they chatted him and recited and sang songs for him. After Mr. Tilford had told them that this dinner was to him the happiest feature of the Christmas season, a sentiment that brought the answering shout from all part of the hall.

The same to you and many of them," the Little Mothers speeded his parting by throwing holly and other table decorations at him.

Then the Little Mothers listened to a musical programme by professionals until the gift bags were distributed. Each of the children carried home with her a doll, a pair of mittens, a handkerchief and a box of candy.

LIGHTED TREE HIMSELF.

Small Boy Sets Fire to His Father's House in Hoboken.

Several oil paintings, some parlor furniture and a Christmas tree were damaged yesterday afternoon by a fire in the residence of Herman Pruser at 914 Hudson street, Hoboken. The blaze was caused by the impatience of Mr. Pruser's small son, who could not wait for nightfall but lighted the candles on the tree in the absence of the old folks. Mr. Pruser is an ex-member of the Hoboken Board of Education.

GREENWICH—Morrell; Barber—Morrell.

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 25.—Two Christmas weddings took place to-day here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Morrell, when their daughters, Misses Estelle and Nellie Bell, became the brides of Dr. William Locant of Greenwich, Conn., and Dr. George Johnson of Branford, Pa.

The two couples will make a brief wedding trip together.

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

"THE STUDENT KING" PLEASES

LINA ABARBANELL APPEARS IN LIGHT OPERA IN ENGLISH.

Alexander Clark and Henry Cote Chief Among Her Supporters—Eugene De Koven's Music Finds More Favor Than the Stage Book—A Fine Stage Setting.

Henry W. Savage's presentation of Reginald de Koven's latest light opera, "The Student King," at the Garden Theatre last night was cordially received by an audience which filled the house. Mr. Savage was called before the curtain at the close of the second act with Mrs. Lina Abarbanel, the former Metropolitan Opera House singer, who plays the leading role, and was practically compelled to acknowledge the crowd's tribute.

Mr. Savage intended to make "The Student King" more pretentious than the ordinary Broadway light opera but not so classic as the run of productions at the Hammerstein and Comedie opera houses.

The play has plenty of catchy songs in it which took the fancy of the night audience in a way that promises well. The stage settings were good and the costumes more attractive even than those of most of the Broadway comedies, which depend upon that feature as one of their chief bids for popularity. The principals in the cast are supported by a chorus of 100 voices, and in addition Mr. Savage has introduced a special orchestra of thirty-five pieces.

The book will not, however, attract much attention if it is judged by a fair sample of the puns. "My cheeks are on fire," "Yes, I thought I smelled paint burning," Alexander Clark as Rudolph, King of Bohemia, furnishes a good deal of fun, but his appearance is chiefly responsible for that.

Mr. Clark's legs in tights are a pretty good match for a pair of lusty thighs. There is a children's scene in the play which met with generous applause last night. Six little girls toddle in with six little boys, and the boys carry them off in wheelbarrows.

The play has just enough plot to make possible a lot of almost impossible situations. The setting of the opera is in Prague, Bohemia, at the time of the Emperor Charles IV. Rudolph, King of Bohemia, is to leave his throne for twelve hours in accordance with the custom in his country, and a student king is to be chosen.

Francis (Henry Cote) is the selection made by the students. Francis is the King's own son, who was stolen from his cradle by an infanter by one of the designing councillors, Grunkehoff, who was the next in line for the throne with the infant out of the way.

Francis, Princess of Tyrol (Mrs. Abarbanel), has come to Prague incognito in search of a husband. She wants to see him and study him before she discloses her identity. Her cousin, Lady Anna, a rich and beautiful woman, consents to impersonate the Princess. The real king of Bohemia and Francis, the student king, both fall in love with Anna. The latter, however, is the latter, supposing him to be the actual ruler of the State.

Francis and Rudolph attend the students' carnival in the same disguise, and Rudolph gets hold of the old King and declares her love just at the right time for Francis to overhear her. Anna then declares her identity, but the young Francis repudiates her.

She dresses up in the disguise of a student and enters the Fest Hall of the university a few moments before the young king, the student king to abdicate. The King Rudolph finds her, and at the twelfth hour of Francis's reign swears death against him. But one of his councillors, the Duke of the fact that the student is his son, and everything ends in harmony.

The book of the opera is by Frederic Ranken and Stanislaus Stange.

NEXT WEEK'S OPERAS.

Eames and Melba to Appear at the Rival Opera Houses.

Two new prima donnas will enter the opera field next week. Mrs. Emma Eames will begin her engagement at the Metropolitan and Mrs. Melba comes to the Manhattan to sing for a month with Mr. Hammerstein's forces. Both singers will appear for the first time on Wednesday night and both will appear in Italian operas.

Mme. Eames, who is to appear at the Metropolitan during the rest of the season, will first be heard in "Tosca," with Messrs. Caruso, Scotti and Duffiche, while Mme. Melba has selected "La Traviata" for her reappearance. She will sing at the Manhattan with MM. Bonci, Sevelbach and Renda.

The week at the Metropolitan will begin with "Faust," in which Geraldine Farrar will sing Marguerite. With her will sing MM. Placung and Rossetti and Mme. Lohengrin and Simeoni. On Friday "Eduard" will be sung by Mmes. Cavaleri and Alten and MM. Caruso and Scotti. Mme. Sembrich and MM. Rossetti and Jourmet will appear in "Lakme" on Saturday matinee. "Lohengrin" will be given at the popular Saturday evening performance by Mmes. Fleischner-Eidel and Kirkly and Messrs. Burian, Gerson and Muehlmann. Morris Rosenthal will be one of the soloists at the next Sunday concert with Lina Cavaleri, Marcel Jourmet and Janine Barr.

"Trovatore," to be sung by M. Dalmondes and Sevelbach and Mmes. Russ and DeCisneros, will begin the week at the Manhattan. "Aida" will be given on Saturday night with the regular cast. On Friday "Carmen" will be repeated with the regular cast and at the Saturday matinee "Lohengrin" will be given with the regular first time. The cast will include Mmes. Pinkert and MM. Bonci, Sevelbach and Gilbert. At the Saturday evening performance Mrs. Donatti will appear in "La Traviata" with the same cast that sang with Mme. Melba on Wednesday.

ACTORS' UNION STILL FIGHTS

To Prevent the Reinstatement of the Musicians and Stage Hands.

A final attempt is being made this week by the Actors' National Protective Union to get the affiliated organizations to stand out against reinstating the unions of musicians and stage hands which were suspended by the Central Federated Union for refusing to order their members on strike in the Metropolitan Opera House.

The question whether the C. F. U. will reinstate these and several other unions which it has suspended or face the revocation of its charter, to be followed by the organization of a new Central Labor Union, will come up for a final vote on Tuesday. A circular has been sent out to all the unions by the Actors' Protective Union, which says that the Chorus Singers' Union is liable to be annihilated if the stage hands and musicians do not strike, although the opera season is in full swing and both unions have agreements with the opera house. The circular goes on:

Can you in your own interest afford to ignore such a proposition as the re-organization of two unions which have defied all trades union principle and the decision of the union movement represented in the Central Federated Union? On December 30, 1906, your delegates will have to vote whether the resolution adopted by the A. F. of L. convention be carried into effect by the Central Federated Union. Can you consistently approve that part of the resolutions which compels the organized movement of this city to embrace the two unions which are responsible for over one hundred men and women being without food and shelter to-day and on the streets, wondering at such fraternalism and unionism?

The Mimmers to Play for Charity.

The Grand Jury proposes to enforce the rule that every car driving through crowded hours must carry extra conductors whose duty it shall be to collect fares, leaving the regular conductor to look out for starting and stopping the car and for the safety of passengers. This would reduce chances of accident, even with the present overcrowding.

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COUPLES WED IN PLATOONS.

Christmas Marriage Boom in London—Swimmers Defy Frost.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Christmas Day is one of the most popular days for marriages among the London poor, apparently owing to the temporary comparative wealth drawn from benefit clubs and Christmas boxes. The couples were in such numbers to-day in some churches that they had to be married in platoons to avoid interfering with the regular services.

Notwithstanding the frost, some enthusiasts here and in Paris celebrated Christmas day by swimming in icy waters. Eight men started to race across the River Seine. Five of them, including an Englishman, were overcome by the current and the cold and were picked up by boats. The winner, a Frenchman, was acclaimed by excited crowds on the banks and bridges.

Twenty-nine Londoners braved an icy wind at 7:30 o'clock this morning and swam 110 yards in the Serpentine. They competed for a "Peter Pan" cup, presented by J. M. Barrie. Several were members of the Serpentine Club, who never miss a swim on Christmas Day. They are often compelled to break through the ice. One to-day celebrated his fortieth consecutive Christmas Day swim.

JAPANESE CHRISTMASING.

Being Here, They Do as We Do, or Nearly, as Their Proverb Bids.

Christmas was celebrated yesterday by the Japanese in Greater New York, Christians as well as non-Christians, for they remember the old proverb of their own, which goes like this: "Entering a community, follow the customs of the community."

Just at Horie's in Sands street, Brooklyn, a Christmas dinner with an enormous turkey on the table was given, at which sat a large number of the host's friends, who after the dinner made themselves gay by indulging in telling stories and singing songs of their native land.

All along Sands street there are a considerable number of Japanese houses, and in all these houses Christmas was an occasion of merrymaking all day and all night. Especially at the cigar store kept by O. Fujita, a Japanese, who is now making a party of the Japanese who played the Japanese game of cards, which in the original terminology is called "Hana awase," meaning matching of cards. The Japanese cards are somewhat different from the American cards. In size they are not half as large as the American cards. On these cards are printed the flowers of cherry, plum, and other kinds of flora of Japan; the leaves of trees, the birds and the beasts, the landscapes, scenery, moon and stars, &c.

There are a number of groups of cards bearing the pictures of things that are classified. And the matching of cards means the matching of cards of the same group.

Maclima's restaurant was overcrowded with the holy day guests, which raised the little light footed O. It was to his utmost ability to serve raw fish, Japanese soup and rice to their hearts' content. In other Japanese restaurants in the city, around Sands street, spirit of celebration reigned supreme.

In New York there was also a celebration of the Japanese in the Japan Club and other Japanese establishments.

There is a little Japanese club called the Gochi Club at 225 East Fifty-first street. The members of the club are Mr. T. Yokota, a Christian. Last night Mr. Yokota and half a dozen clubmates, including Misses Kitagawa and Furuya, Y. Nakatsuka, the interior decorator, and others, were gathered together to celebrate Christmas. The celebration took the form of card playing. Japanese card playing is a game of skill. A hundred cards are displayed on a table. On these cards are written the latter halves of a hundred different Japanese words. The players take part in the game around the table.

A man out of the game reads one of the poems, and as soon as he reads the first word he is asked to select a card which corresponds to the word. One who gathers most wins the game. Last night the plan of the game was somewhat altered and the players were divided into two teams. The cards were equally divided between the factions. The faction that disposed of the cards quicker won the game.

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TO REDUCE STOCK

Prior to the Annual Inventory

Dodd, Mead & Company

Announce a Clearance Sale of

BOOKS

In their Retail Department.

BEGINNING TO-DAY, DEC. 26,

Decided reductions will be made in Books of all classes.

An opportunity to invest Christmas money to the best advantage.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

James Bryce, who is to be the English Ambassador to the United States, is better known as a man of letters than as a statesman. His equipment both for statesmanship and literature is well demonstrated in his latest book, "Studies in Contemporary Biography," a series of profound biographical studies of some of the most important figures in English and American history in the last half century.

Since the late M. Brunetiere lectured in this country no more distinguished French author has visited America than M. Anatole Le Braz, who is now making a lecture tour of the larger universities and colleges. M. Le Braz is a poet, a critic and a writer of fiction. A characteristic work of his is "Au Pays des Padons," which was recently published in an English translation by Francis M. Gostling under the title of "The Land of Pardon." M. Le Braz is a Breton and an authoritative interpreter of his peculiar country to the outside world.

Lucas Malet's new novel, "The Far Horizon," will be brought out early in January by Dodd, Mead & Co. The book has been finished practically for some two or three years and several times announced for publication, but it has been kept back for further consideration and revision by the author. The dominant note of the story will bring out the new edition of an English edition in 1901. Lucas Malet is Charles Kingsley's daughter and her real name is Mrs. Mary St. Leger Harrison.

The first book of the new year for Doubleday, Page & Co. will be H. B. Marriott Watson's romance "The Privateers," which will be published the middle of the month. It deals with the experiences of an English heiress who is abducted successively by two fortune hunting Americans, and is said to have more adventures than "Hurricane Island."

On January 19, the centenary of the birth of Robert E. Lee, Doubleday, Page & Co. will bring out a new edition of Capt. Robert E. Lee's "Recollections and Letters" of his father. The original edition has gone to press seven times in this country, while in England one large edition has been exhausted.

"The Lady of the Decoration" is having a rather unusual career. For four months after its publication no reprintings were required. Then the lady began to enlarge her circle of friends so rapidly that a new edition was required every few weeks. The book has been reprinted three times within the last month. The secret of the authorship has been well kept and no one knows who "Frances Little" is.

"By the Light of the Soul," Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's novel which is to be published in January, is the story of a girl who married in haste and secretly and repents at leisure, finding her path beset by many temptations and problems.

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